

Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs

- A. We are requesting \$250,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) sub-granting funds to assist Seattle's arts and cultural organizations with salary support for jobs or contract positions to strengthen the artistic mission of these organizations.

Organizational Background: Seattle's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs (OACA) is an executive agency of the City of Seattle. Our mission is to promote the value of arts and culture in Seattle. We administer Seattle's public art program, provide funding for artist projects, after school arts training and biennial support for 133 "Civic Partner" organizations. We also invest in a broad range of community-based cultural activities. Current policy initiatives are focused on restoring arts education for every student in Seattle Public School District and securing dedicated cultural space in neighborhoods. We received a 2009 Seattle Management Association Award for "Innovation in Race & Social Justice" for our groundbreaking and flexible smART ventures program, which provides hands-on technical assistance and seed investment to support cultural activity in diverse communities. The Seattle Arts Commission, comprised of sixteen citizen volunteers, advises and works with the professional staff to fulfill OACA's mission. OACA's budget (including one percent-for-art) was \$8,090,260 for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2008. We have a staff of 26 FTEs.

Arts employment in Seattle: Seattle has the nation's most arts-related businesses per capita, with **4,065 arts and arts-related businesses, employing 21,025 people**, according to the 2008 *Creative Industries Report* by Americans for the Arts. Non-profit cultural organizations in Seattle generate more than \$330 million in direct spending, with an employment base of **7,992 full-time equivalent jobs**, according to *Arts & Economic Prosperity III* report, issued by Americans for the Arts in 2007. In March 2009, "Impact of the Economic Recession on the Puget Sound Region's Nonprofit Arts Sector" report estimates that Seattle's non-profit arts and cultural organizations are facing budget reductions ranging between five and thirty percent, and many organizations have already instituted layoffs and furloughs.

- B. Eligible Organizations: **All 133 organizations in the existing "Civic Partner" portfolio will be eligible to apply to OACA for re-granting.** We completed a competitive application round for our "Civic Partners" program in fall 2008 **granting \$1.7 million**. A rigorous independent peer review process, affirmed by Seattle Arts Commission for integrity and fair process, selected these organizations, representing all artistic disciplines, for the 2009 – 2010 biennium. These organizations reach **combined audiences of 5.6 million**, and range in size from community-based organizations like the Rain City Symphony (annual budget \$8,000) to One Reel (annual budget \$24 million). Evaluation criteria include artistic quality, audiences served and fiscal management. Fifty-four "Civic Partners" are eligible to apply directly to the NEA, and we have encouraged them to do so, while letting them know of our plans. If directly funded by the NEA, they will not be eligible to apply to OACA.

In order to have the greatest impact in what will be a highly competitive process, we have outlined a two-tiered approach in order to reach mid-size organizations in particular and community-based organizations serving diverse communities:

- Organizations with a minimum expense budget of \$150,000 and above will be eligible to apply for \$15,000 - \$20,000 for full or partial support for a full-time or part-time position (88 potential applicants / 10 – 15 awards).

Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs

- Organizations with budgets below \$150,000 are eligible to apply for \$5,000 to support contract positions (45 potential applicants / 5 awards).

Process / mechanism / reporting: We use CultureGrants Online (CGO), an all-digital online application developed by Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), which will provide a streamlined application tailored specifically for the ARRA. All eligible organizations have a CGO profile, so we can accelerate the paperless application, review and reporting process, and coordinate with the Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC), which is considering using CGO. We already have a DUNS number for applicants, and our data collection is aligned with NEA protocols (Institution Type, Discipline, and Ethnicity, etc.). Our own geographic component captures activity down to the neighborhood level. We are confident in our ability to meet the high standards of accountability and transparency required under ARRA and the internal reporting requirements set forth by the Mayor of the City of Seattle.

Timeline /Application content: After NEA awards are announced on July 1, 2009, we will immediately invite all eligible Civic Partner organizations to apply. The abbreviated application will ask applicants to:

- 1) **identify full-time, part-time or contract positions at risk** due to the current economic recession,
- 2) **describe how funding will directly impact salary and/or fees for artists and contract personnel** and how these positions are critical to the organization's artistic mission,
- 3) **describe any indirect impacts on jobs** that will result from this funding, and
- 4) **address the impacts on audiences and underserved communities**, consistent with NEA priorities and City of Seattle's Race & Social Justice Initiative. We expect to close the application in early August. We plan to include adjudicators from out of state via the Internet in order to increase the objectivity of the selection process, which we expect to **complete by September 8**, in time for Seattle Arts Commission approval and then required Seattle City Council approval.

- C. Contracting: To expedite the process and reduce paperwork, we will amend current Civic Partner contracts to include NEA awards along with contract language amendments to include any ARRA, including acknowledgement of support. We will carefully track these to ensure that all funds are expended and accounted for well before the August, 2010 deadline.

Reporting: We will meet all reporting requirements as required by ARRA, with additional posting on the City of Seattle's Recovery Act web page (recovery.seattle.gov).

Regional collaboration: Our efforts are aligned at the regional level with Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), at the state level with Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC), with King County through 4Culture, and with the 54 Seattle-based organizations eligible to apply directly to the NEA.

- D. Capacity of the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs to successfully invest Recovery Act Funds with the level of accountability required by Congress: With the process efficiencies outlined above, we are confident in our ability to re-grant these funds quickly and efficiently, and **will absorb the administrative costs and burdens with existing program staff and resources**, and will not use NEA funds to cover those costs.

Total salaries, wages, and fringe benefits (a. + b.) \$

6. Total project costs (4.+5.)	\$
Must equal total project income (3. From Project Budget, Page 1)	